

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A data acceleration system enabling accelerated provision of event-characterizing information for ~~an event-~~ a telecommunications event initiated in a wireless telecommunications system with respect to a roaming customer of a home wireless service provider, the wireless telecommunications system comprising a serving switch associated with a serving carrier for receiving ~~an event-~~ a telecommunications event initiation command and ~~an event-~~ a telecommunications event termination command, the data acceleration system comprising:
 - an event manager, independent of the serving switch and associated with the home service provider, for responding to the telecommunications event initiation command by initiating the accumulation of data characterizing the telecommunications event, for responding to ~~an-~~ the telecommunications event termination command by terminating the accumulation of data characterizing the telecommunications event, and for transmitting the accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data;
 - a customer account manager of the home service provider in communication with the event manager for receiving the accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data; and
 - a customer database associated with the customer account manager for maintaining customer account records of the home service provider,wherein the customer account manager is adapted for modifying the respective customer account record in the customer database on the basis of the accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the event manager is further adapted for transmitting the telecommunications event characterizing data to the customer account manager in batches at a frequency of less than twenty-four hours.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the event manager is further adapted for transmitting the telecommunications event characterizing data to the customer account manager immediately upon termination of the telecommunications event.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the event manager is adapted to receive the telecommunications event initiation command and telecommunications event termination command from the serving switch.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the event manager is adapted to detect the telecommunications event initiation command and the telecommunications event termination command independent of the serving switch.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data transmitted by the event manager is substantially duplicative of telecommunications event characterizing data accumulated and transmitted by the serving switch.
8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, further comprising a filter in communication with the customer account manager for preventing delivery of accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data transmitted by the serving switch and intended for receipt by the customer account manager if the event manager has already transmitted accumulated telecommunications event characterizing data to the customer account manager.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of accelerating the reporting of roaming-event-characterizing data for a roaming telecommunications event in a telecommunications network, comprising:

- detecting roaming telecommunications event initiation and termination commands at a serving switch within the telecommunications network with respect to a roaming customer of a home service provider;

- detecting the roaming telecommunications event initiation and termination commands at an event manager associated with the home service provider;

- initiating and terminating the roaming telecommunications event by the serving switch in response to the roaming telecommunications event initiation and termination commands;

- accumulating roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data by each of the event manager and the serving switch during the roaming telecommunications event;

- forwarding the accumulated roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data, by the event manager, to a customer account manager associated with the home service provider after roaming telecommunications event termination; and

- forwarding the accumulated roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data, by the serving carrier, to the customer account manager after roaming telecommunications event termination,

- ~~whereby the step of~~ wherein forwarding the accumulated roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data by the serving carrier occurs subsequent to receipt of the roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager at the customer account manager.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

- rating the roaming telecommunications event by the customer account manager upon receipt of the accumulated roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager; and

updating customer-specific account characteristics in a customer database by the customer account manager on the basis of the accumulated roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of forwarding the roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager comprises forwarding the roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data in batches.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of forwarding the roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager comprises forwarding the roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data immediately upon roaming telecommunications event termination.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of preventing the serving switch roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data from reaching the customer account manager if the event manager roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data has already been received by the customer account manager.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of preventing further comprises storing the serving switch roaming telecommunications event-characterizing data for purposes other than for customer account management.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling the selective use of real-time telecommunications event control resources in a telecommunications system, comprising:

a subscriber database comprised of individual subscriber records, each providing data relevant to the a respective subscriber account;

a balance manager in communication with the subscriber database for receiving data characterizing real-time telecommunications events chargeable to a subscriber, for

rating the received real-time telecommunications event characterizing data according to rating data from the subscriber database, for modifying the respective subscriber record in the subscriber database on the basis of the rated real-time telecommunications event characterizing data, and for providing subscriber record data upon request;

a treatment handler in communication with the balance manager for determining whether a subscriber is subject to pre-event processing before and real-time monitoring during an- a real-time telecommunications event or whether a subscriber is subject to post-event monitoring; and

an event manager in communication with the balance manager and the treatment handler for selectively authorizing an- a real-time telecommunications event subject to pre-event processing before and real-time monitoring during an- the authorized real-time telecommunications event or subject to post-event monitoring.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber database, balance manager, event manager, and treatment handler are adapted to perform post-event monitoring through receiving real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data by the balance manager subsequent to real-time telecommunications event termination, rating the real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data upon receipt at the balance manager, modifying the respective subscriber record in the subscriber database by the balance manager on the basis of the rated real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data, and subsequently analyzing the modified subscriber record by the treatment handler.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the treatment handler is further adapted to perform post-event monitoring through analysis of the modified subscriber record with respect to predefined business rules stored in conjunction with the treatment handler.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the treatment handler is further adapted to perform post-event monitoring by determining whether further real-time telecommunications events chargeable to the respective subscriber record are subject to post-event monitoring or are subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the subscriber database, balance manager and event manager are adapted to perform pre-event processing and real-time monitoring through the provision of subscriber record data from the subscriber database to the event manager via the balance manager and the accumulation of real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data by the event manager during the event.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the balance manager and event manager are further adapted to perform pre-event processing and real-time monitoring through the provision of accumulated real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data from the event manager to the balance manager subsequent to the real-time telecommunications event.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the balance manager and subscriber database are further adapted to rate the real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data upon receipt at the balance manager and to modify the respective subscriber record in the subscriber database on the basis of the rated real-time telecommunications event-characterizing data for subscribers subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the treatment handler is adapted to determine whether to authorize a subscriber-requested real-time telecommunications event subject to pre-event processing before and real-time monitoring during an ~~a~~ real-time telecommunications event or subject to post-event monitoring on the

basis of one or more metrics selected from the group consisting of cash balance, credit balance, debt balance, applicable rate plan, home or roaming status, payments due, and credit rating.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the treatment handler is further adapted to perform post-event monitoring through the establishment of a treatment identifier which, when analyzed by the event manager upon receipt of a subsequent real-time telecommunications event initiation request, identifies whether the respective subscriber is subject to post-call monitoring or pre-call processing and real-time monitoring.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising a payment portal associated with the balance manager for enabling real-time modification of a subscriber account.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the balance manager is responsive to a modification of a subscriber account in the subscriber database, initiated by the payment portal, by sending a signal to the treatment handler.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the treatment handler is responsive to receipt of the signal from the balance manager by analyzing the modified subscriber record with respect to predefined business rules stored in conjunction with the treatment handler.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the treatment handler analysis of the modified subscriber record is for determining whether further real-time telecommunications events chargeable to the respective subscriber record are subject to post-event monitoring or are subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the treatment handler is further adapted to perform pre-event processing and real-time monitoring through the establishment of a treatment identifier which, when analyzed by the event manager upon receipt of a subsequent real-time telecommunications event initiation request, identifies whether the respective subscriber is subject to post-call monitoring or pre-call processing and real-time monitoring.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising a messaging agent in communication with the treatment handler for the selective delivery of a message to a subscriber.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the messaging agent is comprised of a database of predetermined messages selectable by the treatment handler for delivery to a subscriber according to a treatment handler analysis of the respective subscriber account.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the messaging agent is adapted for incorporating data provided by the treatment handler in a selected predetermined message for delivery to a subscriber.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the messaging agent is adapted to deliver a message in a medium selected from the group consisting of text, graphics and audio.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the messaging agent is adapted to deliver a message immediately upon being instructed by the treatment handler or at a future time.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively employing real-time telecommunications event control resources for a subscriber to a telecommunications service plan, comprising:

analyzing data characteristic of a subscriber account at a treatment handler with respect to predetermined values available thereto for determining if a subsequent subscriber-initiated real-time telecommunications event is to be subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring or if the subsequent subscriber-initiated real-time telecommunications event is to be subject to post-event monitoring; and
establishing a treatment identifier reflective of the treatment handler analysis.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~an~~ a real-time telecommunications event initiation request from a subscriber to the telecommunications service plan at an event manager; and
referring to the respective treatment identifier, by the event manager, for determining whether the subscriber real-time telecommunications event is subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring or if the real-time telecommunications event is subject to post-event monitoring.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, if the treatment indicator indicates to the event manager that the real-time telecommunications event is subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring, further comprising the step of retrieving data from a respective subscriber record maintained by a balance manager in an associated subscriber database, by the event manager, for determining if the subscriber record data is sufficient to authorize real-time telecommunications event initiation.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

authorizing real-time telecommunications event initiation by the event manager in response to determining the subscriber record data is sufficient; and

monitoring the real-time telecommunications event in real-time subsequent to real-time telecommunications event initiation.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the steps of:
sending real-time telecommunications event-related data to the balance manager
by the event manager subsequent to real-time telecommunications event termination;
rating the real-time telecommunications event-related data by the balance
manager; and
updating the respective subscriber account by the balance manager on the basis of
the rated real-time telecommunications event-related data.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:
identifying, by the treatment handler, one of a set of predetermined messages
associated with a messaging agent; and
instructing, by the treatment handler, the messaging agent to deliver the identified
message.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of
authorizing real-time telecommunications event initiation if the treatment indicator indicates
to the event manager that the real-time telecommunications event is subject to post-event
monitoring.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, further comprising the steps of:
sending real-time telecommunications event-related data to the balance manager
by the event manager subsequent to real-time telecommunications event termination;
rating the real-time telecommunications event-related data by the balance
manager;
updating the respective subscriber account by the balance manager on the basis of
the rated real-time telecommunications event-related data; and

indicating to the event manager, by the balance manager, that the respective account has been modified.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a payment from a subscriber at a payment portal associated with the balance manager; and

if the subscriber is subject to pre-call processing and real-time monitoring, notifying the treatment handler of a change in the subscriber account.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:
re-analyzing data characteristic of the subscriber account by the treatment handler for determining if a subsequent subscriber-initiated real-time telecommunications event is again to be subject to pre-event processing and real-time monitoring or if the subsequent subscriber-initiated real-time telecommunications event is to be subject to post-event monitoring; and

establishing a treatment identifier reflective of the treatment handler re-analysis.